

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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R 251530Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5733

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1277

DEPT PASS EUR/EE FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO BU

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL ON MACEDONIAN QUESTION

1. IN LATE JANUARY YUGOSLAVIA PRESENTED PROPOSAL TO BULGARIA FOR SOLUTION OF MACEDONIAN QUESTION, ACCORDING TO ASSISTANT FEDERAL SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DRAGAN BERNARDIC. BERNARDIC CALLED IN CHARGE ON FEB 25 TO INFORM HIM OF PROPOSAL AND ASK THAT INFORMATION BE PASSED TO USG. HE SAID HE WAS MAKING SAME PRESENTATION TO SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. BERNARDIC SAID THE BASIC PROBLEM IN YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN RELATIONS IS THAT BULGARIA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF A YUGOSLAV MINORITY IN BULGARIA AND DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF A MACEDONIAN NATIONALITY. HE SAID THAT AT THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE LAST YEAR PRESIDENT TITO AND ZHIVKOV MET AND DECIDED TO TAKE STEPS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO SOLVE

THE PROBLEM AND STABILIZE RELATIONS. WHEN BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV CAME TO BELGRADE IN NOVEMBER, HE PROPOSED  
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ANOTHER TITO-ZHIVKOV SUMMIT AND PRESENTED A DRAFT DOCUMENT ON

WHICH THE PRESIDENTS MIGHT AGREE WHEN THEY MET.

3. AT THE END OF JANUARY FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC PRESENTED A COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR HERE. BERNARDIC SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL INCLUDED A NUMBER OF IDEAS ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED BY THE BULGARIANS. IT CALLED UPON THE BULGARIANS TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR A TITO-ZHIVKOV MEETING TO BE HELD AT AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT, BUT NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING ITSELF. THE YUGOSLAVS PROPOSED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL BULGARIAN-YUGOSLAV COMMISSION MEET SOON TO WORK ON THE PROBLEM. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE QUESTION WHETHER THIS WAS TO BE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, BERNARDIC REPLIED AFFIRMATIVE, BUT SAID FONMINS THEMSELVES WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED. THE GOY PROPOSAL REPEATED A NUMBER OF FAIRLY STANDARD PRINCIPLES AS A BASIS FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. THE GOY SUGGESTED PROMULGATION OF TWO DOCUMENTS IN PARTICULAR. THE TWO PRESIDENT WOULD DECLARE THEIR RESPECT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE OTHER STATE AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY TERRITORIAL PRETENSIONS. EACH NATIONAL LEGISLATURE WOULD GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES; THAT IS, OF MACEDONIANS IN BULGARIA AND BULGARIANS IN YUGOSLAVIA. BERNARDIC SAID THE RIGHTS IN QUESTION ARE THOSE EMBODIED IN THE INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PEACE TREATY WHICH YUGOSLAVIA SIGNED WITH BULGARIA IN 1947.

5/5 BERNARDIC SAID THE BULGARIANS RECEIVED THE YUGOSLAV COUNTERPROPOSAL WITHOUT COMMENT AND ARE BELIEVED TO BE STUDYING IT.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE SOMEWHAT MYSTIFIED WHY THE GOY CHOSE TO MAKE A DEMARCHE IN SO FORMAL A FASHION ON THIS TOPIC. BERNARDIC WAS NO DOUBT USING THIS OCCASION TO LAUNCH HIMSELF IN HIS NEW POSITION. FURTHER, THEY MAY BE TRYING TO SHOW HOW HARD THEY ARE WORKING TO FURTHER THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI, AND OF COURSE THEY ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM. REPORTEDLY GEN. LUBICIC DISCUSSED GOY RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA AND ALBANIA IN A SESSION WITH BRITISH AIR CHIEF MARSHALL HUMPHREY THAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO RESUME OF GOY RELATIONS WITH ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ANOTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE THAT GOY DOES NOT EXPECT THE

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BULGARIANS TO RECOGNIZE THE MACEDONIAN NATIONALITY, AND WE CONSEQUENTLY DOUBT THAT THEY EXPECT BULGARIANS TO ACCEPT COUNTER-PROPOSAL.  
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